

REMARKS

In the Final Office Action, the Examiner rejected claims 1-41. By the present Response and Request for Continued Examination, Applicant hereby amends claims 1, 3-7, 9-12, 14, 16-20, 22-25, 27, 29-33, 35-38, and 40-41 for clarification of certain features and to expedite allowance of the present application. Additionally, new claims 42-47 are added. These amendments and new claims do not add any new matter. Upon entry of these amendments, claims 1-47 will be pending in the present application and are believed to be in condition for allowance. In view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and allowance of all pending claims.

Objection to the Drawings

In the Final Office Action, the Examiner objected to the drawings. *See* Final Office Action, page 2. As discussed above, Applicant submits the above-mentioned Replacement Drawings. Further, it is believed that the Examiner's objections to the drawings are addressed by way of the amendments to the claims.

Claim Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 112, First Paragraph

The Examiner rejected claims 1-41 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph, as failing to comply with the written description requirement. Specifically, the Examiner alleged that "the claims contain subject matter which was not described in the specification in such a way as to reasonably convey to one skilled in the relevant art that the inventor, at the time the application was filed, had possession of the claims invention." *Id.* at page 3. Applicant respectfully traverses these rejections.

In the Final Office Action, the Examiner specifically referenced independent claims 1 and 14 as reciting certain features that are allegedly not disclosed clearly in the specification. However, Applicant notes that the Examiner does not appear to address independent claim 27 at all, which recites similar features. While Applicant disagrees

that the previously presented claims 1-41 fail to comply with the written description requirement under Section 112, first paragraph, in the interest of moving prosecution forward, Applicant has amended independent claims 1, 14, and 27, as well as several of their corresponding dependent claims, to further clarify Applicant's invention. In view of these amendments to the claims, Applicant respectfully requests withdrawal of the rejection under Section 112, first paragraph, and allowance of claims 1-41.

New Claims

In the non-final Office Action mailed on March 9, 2009 (Office Action of 3/9/2009), the Examiner indicated that claims 3, 8, 10, 16, 21, 23, 29, 34, and 36 contained allowable subject matter, but were objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim. *See* Office Action of 3/9/2009, page 11. The Examiner indicated, however, that these claims would be allowable if rewritten into independent form to include all the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. *See id.* While Applicant recognizes that some of these previously allowable claims have been since amended, Applicant has rewritten the *previously* recited subject matter of these previously allowable claims (e.g., as of the Office Action of 3/9/2009) into independent form to include the limitations of their *previous* corresponding base and intervening claims.

Specifically, the newly added independent claims 42-47 correspond to the allowable claims 3, 8, 16, 21, 29, and 34, as previously pending on March 9, 2009, being rewritten into independent form based upon their respective previously pending independent claims and intervening claims of March 9, 2009. For instance:

1. New independent claim 42 corresponds to previously allowable claim 3 written into independent form to include the features of previously pending independent claim 1 and intervening claim 2;

2. New independent claim 43 corresponds to previously allowable claim 8 written into independent form to include the features of previously pending independent claim 1 and intervening claim 7;
3. New independent claim 44 corresponds to previously allowable claim 16 written into independent form to include the features of previously pending independent claim 14 and intervening claim 15;
4. New independent claim 45 corresponds to previously allowable claim 21 written into independent form to include the features of previously pending independent claim 14 and intervening claim 20;
5. New independent claim 46 corresponds to previously allowable claim 29 written into independent form to include the features of previously pending independent claim 27 and intervening claim 28;
6. New independent claim 47 corresponds to previously allowable claim 34 written into independent form to include the features of previously pending independent claim 27 and intervening claim 33;

Thus, based upon the Examiner's previous indication of allowable subject matter, Applicant respectfully requests allowance of new claims 42-47.

Conclusion

Applicant respectfully submits that all pending claims should be in condition for allowance. However, if the Examiner believes certain amendments are necessary to clarify the present claims or if the Examiner wishes to resolve any other issues by way of a telephone conference, the Examiner is kindly invited to contact the undersigned attorney at the telephone number indicated below.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: February 12, 2010

/Tait R. Swanson/
Tait R. Swanson
Registration No. 48,226
FLETCHER YODER
P.O. Box 692289
Houston, TX 77269-2289
(281) 970-4545